

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 06475 161915Z

43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 AID-05 SAJ-01 /085 W

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R 161330Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5888

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 6475

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO, CH

SUBJECT: SIHANOUK VISIT TO BUCHAREST

REF: BUCHAREST 6370

1. SUMMARY. SIHANOUK VISIT TO BUCHAREST (DECEMBER 11-13) SEEMED ESSENTIALLY AIMED AT POST-WAR RENEWAL OF TIES AFTER UPHEAVAL IN CAMBODIA, BEING SHORT ON SUBSTANCE BUT LONG ON MUTUAL GOOD WILL AND PRAISE OF GOR SUPPORT TO "FRATERNAL" CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. ROMANIANS GOT AGREEMENT TO OPEN RESIDENT EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH "IN NEAR FUTURE" AND NAILED DOWN THEIR SECOND PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF OBSERVER STATUS AT UP-COMING COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. IN BREAK WITH USUAL ROMANIAN PROTOCOL, NO INVITATION WAS EXTENDED BY CAMBODIANS FOR RETURN CEAUSESCU VISIT. NO NEW ACCORDS WERE SIGNED. UNLIKE LE DUAN'S VISIT, NO EXPLICIT BARBS WERE AIMED AT U.S. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 06475 161915Z

2. AN ANNUAL VISITOR TO ROMANIA SINCE 1972, SIHANOUK WAS LOGICAL

CHOICE TO SERVE AS AN ENVOY TO RENEW ROMANIAN-CAMBODIAN GOOD WILL. ACCORDING TO CENTRAL PRESS, HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SARIN CHHAK, MEMBER, POLITBURO OF THE NATIONAL UNITY FRONT AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; CHEA SAN, CAMBODIA'S RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST, ALSO A MEMBER OF POLITBURO; KEAT CHHON, CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER; AND PRINCE NORODOM NARINDRAPONG. SIHANOUK AND PARTY HELD OFFICIAL TALKS WITH CEAUSESCU AND VISITED BUCHAREST POLITECHNIC AND HEAVY-MACHINE FACTORY. IN SPITE OF MUCH TALK OF INCREASING CAMBODIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, NO NEW ACCORDS WERE SIGNED, PERHAPS DUE TO LIMITED MANDATE UNDER WHICH SIHANOUK WAS PROBABLY OPERATING -- A MANDATE WHICH DID NOT EVEN PERMIT THE EXTENSION OF RETURN VISIT INVITATION TO CEAUSESCU.

3. SIHANOUK'S RHETORIC DURING VISIT WAS MODERATE. HE DID NOT ATTACK UNITED STATES BY NAME, ALTHOUGH COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO CAMBODIAN PEOPLE'S VICTORY OVER "IMPERIALIST AGRESSION" AND HIS TOAST VIVIDLY DESCRIBED B-52 ATTACKS DURING WAR. COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO BUILDING OF AN "INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN, PEACEFUL, NEUTRAL, NON-ALIGNED, DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS" CAMBODIA. SIHANOUK ALSO THANKED GOR FOR ITS PAST POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. GOR IN TURN REAFFIRMED IT CONTINUED "FIRM AND CONSTANT" SUPPORT WITHOUT SPECIFYING ANY NEW AID.

4. ROMANIA WILL OPEN A RESIDENT EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH AND GAINED CAMBODIA'S SUPPORT IN COMMUNIQUE FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT 1976 COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. COMMUNIQUE ALSO OBSERVES THAT "EXPERIENCE OF SOCIALIST ROMANIA IS FOLLOWED WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST BY THOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE OPTED FOR THE FLOURISHING OF THEIR ECONOMIC-SOCIAL INDEPENDENCE", WHICH IS GESTURE TOWARD EXISTENCE OF SPECIFIC ROMANIAN MODEL FOR DEVELOPMENT. INTERNATIONAL SECTIONS OF COMMUNIQUE WERE ROUTINE, ALTHOUGH STANDARD CALL FOR DENUCLEARIZED ZONES WAS SPECIFICALLY EXTENDED TO COVER BALKANS, MIDDLE EAST, INDIAN OCEAN AND SHOTHEAST ASIA AS POSSIBLE AREAS OF APPLICATION.

5. COMMENT: TREATMENT OF SIHANOUK WAS FAIRLY WARM AS BEFITS HIS PAST RELATIONSHIP WITH CEAUSESCU, BUT THE ROMANIAN LEADER MAY WISH TO HAVE MORE DIRECT CONTACT WITH WHOEVER IS REALLY RUNNING CAMBODIA BEFORE ADDING MUCH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 06475 161915Z

RELATIONS WITH KHMER ROUGE GOVERNMENT, AS VISIT'S APPARENT LIMITED SUBSTANCE TESTIFIES.
BARNES

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